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**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR INCREASING A DIGITAL CAMERA  
IMAGE CAPTURE RATE BY DELAYING IMAGE PROCESSING**

**ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for increasing a digital camera image capture rate comprises an imaging device for capturing raw image data, a frame buffer for receiving the image data, a first RAM spooler for transferring the raw image data to a RAM disk, a first flash spooler for transferring the raw image data from the RAM disk to a flash memory, an image processor for processing and compressing the raw data, a second RAM spooler for storing the compressed image data into the RAM disk, and a second flash spooler for transferring the compressed image data from the RAM disk to the flash memory.